

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 739

By White D

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Liz Rhea upon her selection as the 2016 Rutherford Heart Ball Honoree and the Heart of Tennessee Hero of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Liz Rhea is one such estimable individual, who has been named the 2016 Rutherford Heart Ball Honoree and Hero of the Year by the Heart of Tennessee Chapter of the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford Heart Ball is an annual event that allows members of the community, medical professionals, and corporate leaders to come together and celebrate the lifesaving work of the American Heart Association, and on February 20, 2016, Dr. Liz Rhea was honored at the event; and

WHEREAS, each year, local chapters of the American Red Cross recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond in service to others, exemplifying the mission of the organization, and the Heart of Tennessee Chapter recently chose Dr. Rhea as its Hero of the Year, and she was honored at the American Red Cross Heroes Breakfast on March 2, 2016; and

WHEREAS, a native of Eagleville, Ira Elizabeth Hay Rhea is the eldest of six children born to Alice Elizabeth and Ira James Hay; and

WHEREAS, she earned her bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in 1955 and graduated from the University of Tennessee School of Medicine in 1958, as one of only two women in her class, and then specialized in radiology; and

WHEREAS, after working at the Murfreesboro Medical Clinic, Dr. Rhea returned to medical school at Baylor College of Medicine to study mammography and ultrasound. In 1978, she accepted a position at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, and remained there until her retirement in 1992; and

WHEREAS, after her retirement, she and her husband, Dr. Creighton Rhea, returned to Rutherford County, and she began to volunteer in her community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Liz Rhea has been involved with several organizations, including the Center for the Arts, American Heart Association, Read to Succeed, Habitat for Humanity, and Alive Hospice; and

WHEREAS, she has served on the board of the MTSU Foundation, MTSU Alumni Association, United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties, and the Saint Thomas Rutherford Foundation, which named its most prestigious award after her, the Dr. Liz Rhea Philanthropist of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rhea also contributed to the fundraising efforts of Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital, and to honor her generosity, the hospital's chapel bears her name, the Ira Elizabeth Hay Rhea, M.D. Chapel; and

WHEREAS, a three-time survivor of cancer, Dr. Liz Rhea's optimism, determination, and dedication to community service are an inspiration to all those who are privileged to know her; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, Dr. Liz Rhea takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned Tennessee the nickname of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as Dr. Liz Rhea who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Liz Rhea on being named the 2016 Rutherford Heart Ball Honoree and the Heart of Tennessee Hero of the Year, thank her for all she has done to make her community and this State a better place to live and work, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.